CWDT under Section 5(2) of Inter State River Water Disputes Act, 1956 is reserved as per order of CWDT dated July 27,2006.

Interim Award of **Cauvery Tribunal**

2713. DR. K. MALAISAMY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) by when, the final verdict of Cauvery Tribunal on Cauvery river dispute is likely to be pronounced;

(b) whether it is a fact that Government will be pretty serious to implement the final verdict of Cauvery Tribunal as opined by him in Tamil Nadu during his visit in February; and

(c) if so, whether Government have not executed the Interim Award of Cauvery Tribunal if so, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ): (a) The report and decision of Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal (CWDT) under Section 5(2) of Inter-State River Disputes Act, 1956 is reserved as per Order of CWDT dated July 27,2006.

(b) and (c) Interim order passed by CWDT in June, 1991 is a decision of the tribunal and the decision of a Tribunal after publication in official gazette has the same force as an order or the decree of the Supreme Court and becomes final and binding on parties to the dispute and is required to be given effect by them.

Legislation on conservation of water

†2714. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government's present water policy is promoting the companies engaged in water trade;

(b) whether it is also a fact that multinational companies are making efforts for the enactment of legislation regarding ownership of ground water of the country;

(c) if not, the details of the legislation enacted to check reckless use of water in the country; and

(d) the details of efforts being made by Government for conservation of water or its recharging and State-wise achievements thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ): (a) and (b) No. Sir.

(c) Water being a state subject, necessary action to enact legislation

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

to check reckless use of water is to be taken by the State Governments. To enable the States and Union Territories to enact suitable legislation for regulation and control of groundwater development and management, Ministry of Water Resources has circulated a Model Bill. The State Governments of Andhra Pradesh, Goa, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal and Union Territory of Lakshadweep and Pondicherry have enacted appropriate legislation.

(d) Several measures for development and management of water resources are undertaken by the respective State Governments which includes creation of storages, restoration of water bodies, rain water harvesting, artificial recharge to ground water and adoption of better management practices etc. Storage capacity of about 213 BCM has been created so far. As per present assessment, the total estimated storage capacity of the various projects under construction is about 76 BCM. Further, the State Governments have identified various other schemes for investigation and planning and the estimated storage for such schemes is about 108 BCM. Government of India is providing central assistance to the State Governments through various schemes/programmes, such as Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP); Command Area Development and Water Management (CADWM) Programme National Project for Repair, Renovation and Restoration of Water Bodies directly linked to Agriculture etc. The Government of India also encourages rainwater harvesting and recharge to groundwater for conservation of water.

Government has also constituted an Advisory Council on Artificial Recharge to Ground Water under the Chairmanship of Union Minister of Water Resources with the main objective to popularize the concept of artificial recharge to ground water among all stakeholders. The Central Ground Water Board has circulated Manual/Guidelines on Artificial Recharge to Ground Water to the States/Union Territories to enable them to formulate area specific artificial recharge schemes, to check the declining trend of ground water levels and to conserve the rain water.

Water conservation

2715. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government while appreciating the effective water conservation steps taken by Rajasthan Government has commended that such steps be taken in all the other States and the country as a whole;

(b) if so, the details of the measures so commended; and

(c) the steps so far taken to implement Government's directions?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ): (a) to (c) Water being a State subject, necessary measures for water